



**BULOKE AND NORTHERN
GRAMPIANS
LANDCARE NETWORK**

**HALL OF FAME
AND
40 YEARS OF LANDCARE**

3 MAY 2026



Running Sheet

TIME	ACTIVITY
12.00pm	Arrival
12.15pm	Welcome, Apologies and Day's Agenda
12.20pm	Welcome to Country by Uncle Jason Kerr from Djarra
12.40pm	Lunch
1.45pm	Guest Speaker - Trevor Campbell
2.15pm	Hall of Fame Presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elvie McDonald Award• John Douglas Award• Terry Simpson Award• Carrie Jessie Award• BNGLN Legend Award
3.00pm	Cutting of 40 Year Anniversary Cake
3.05pm	Thank you and lucky door prize
5.00pm	Close





40 Years of Landcare

The celebration of 40 years of landcare in Victoria marks a significant milestone in the movement's history.

It began in November 1986 with the formation of the Winjallok Landcare Group. This group of farmers banded together to tackle shared environmental challenges, laying the foundation for a movement that has flourished across Victoria and beyond.

Their spirit of collaboration and determination laid the foundation for a movement that has since flourished across Victoria, Australia and even the globe.

Over the past four decades, Landcare has grown into a vibrant, diverse network dedicated to the sustainable management of Victoria's natural resources. From coastlines, towns and cities to regional and remote landscapes, tens of thousands of passionate landcarers continue to make a real and lasting difference.

At Landcare Victoria, people remain at the heart of everything we do.



Heather Mitchell and Joan Kirner

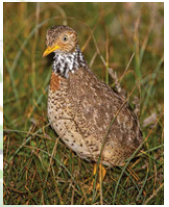
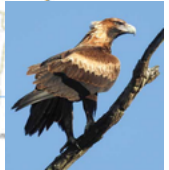




Our Network

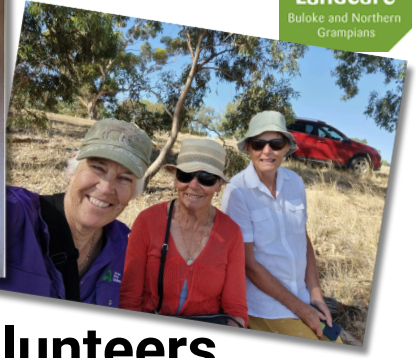


The Buloke & Northern Grampians Landcare Network (BNGLN) was established in 2002 and spans 700,000 hectares of mostly agricultural land with high-value biodiversity areas. Eighteen groups care for Dja Dja Wurrung and Barengi Gadjin Country, helping to restore ecosystems, protect biodiversity and strengthen resilient, connected communities. From revegetation and biolinks to sustainable farming and volunteer action, BNGLN people have created real, lasting change across the region.



Legend
 Landcare Network (BNGLN)
 Landcare Groups
 Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAP) boundaries
 Major and Moderate Rivers





Our wonderful volunteers

To every Landcare member and volunteer – thank you. Your hard work, heart and community spirit are what keep Landcare alive across the Buloke and Northern Grampians region. You’ve planted, restored, organised, supported and shown up when it mattered. You’ve cared for Country, strengthened biolinks, protected wildlife and built the kind of community people are proud to belong to. Our achievements are yours. Tonight, we celebrate you – the people who make Landcare happen.





Award Sponsors

ELVIE MCDONALD

Elvie was a member of the St Arnaud Field Naturalists Group. She was a gentle, unassuming but passionate and determined advocate for the natural environment.

Self-taught, with the encouragement of others Elvie developed the excellent skills of a dedicated naturalist and illustrator of local plants. She inspired others to become involved and continue conservation work in the district.

She advocated for the conservation of uncommon species and the protection of local areas with special floral significance. For example - the Wax Garden, Hard Hills, Dalynong, View Point and Bell Rock

Roles in the St Arnaud Field naturalists Club Elvie served as:

Secretary and Publicity Officer 1984 – 1989

Vice President: 1991

President of StAFNC: 1993 – 2000

Committee Member: 2000 - 2003

The Elvie McDonald Landcare Award for Biodiversity (presented to a BNGLN individual or group that best exhibits the Landcare principles of biodiversity management through projects conducted in their area





Award Winner

MABEL JEAN HOLLAND

Presented by Anne Hughes

Accepted by Prue McAlister



Mabel Jean Holland

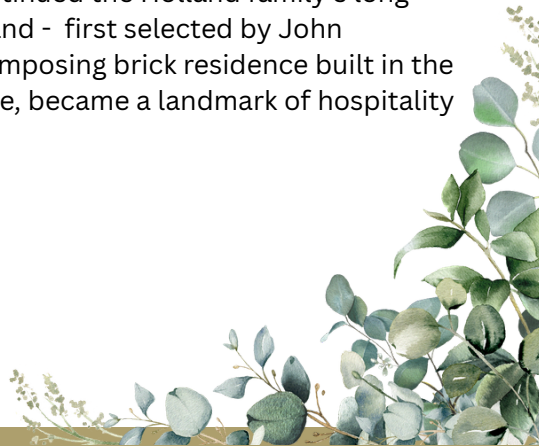


Anne Hughes



Prue McAllister

Mabel Jean Holland known as 'Jean' was a woman far ahead of her time – a passionate protector of wildlife, a fierce advocate for the natural environment, and a stalwart defender of native birds long before they became a community concern. Her legacy is woven into the landscape of Avon Plains and her courage, and foresight continue to shape local stewardship of the land. Jean married Archie Holland in 1939. Together they continued the Holland family's long association with the Avon Plains district land - first selected by John Holland in 1872. Their home Lakeside, an imposing brick residence built in the 1920's on the eastern side of Hollands Lake, became a landmark of hospitality and conservation ethic.





Jean was well-known for her fierce defense of the native birds that made Hollands Lake and nearby York Plains their home. Famously on duck-shooting mornings Jean would be seen on her upstairs balcony before dawn – not to join the hunters but to deter them. Armed with a double barrel shotgun, she would fire into the air above the lake to frighten off those who dared to shoot “her” ducks. Her determination was steadfast and legendary across the district.

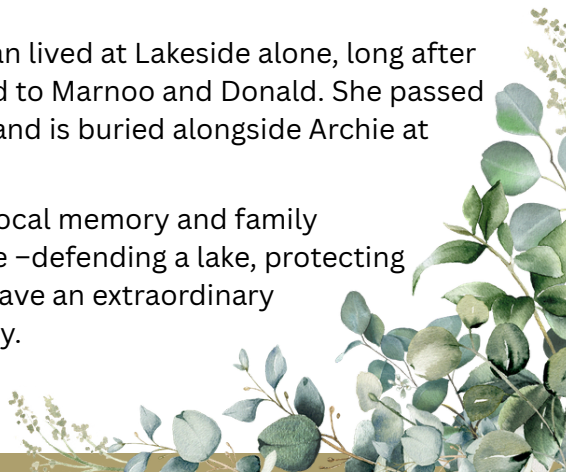
At the entrance of Holland’s Lake still hangs an old sign, installed by Jean herself, reading “private property” in her ongoing effort to protect the lake’s wildlife. Managed today by Parks Victoria, as a Nature Conservation Reserve (no hunting), the spirit of her guardianship remains strong in the community memory.

Another enduring contribution to the Avon Plains community is York Plains, a floodplain on the Avon River, 5 kilometres south of Hollands Lake and previously owned by Jean and Archie. As a “Sanctuary for Native Birds and Animals” in the 1950’s, their decision to dedicate this land to conservation was both generous and visionary, ensuring the ecological health of a region increasingly surrounded by broadacre farming.

Today her legacy remains through Anne and Lindsay Ezard, who upheld Jean’s values of stewardship, biodiversity, and respect for the natural world. York Plains remains a thriving haven for native flora and fauna, a living tribute to Jean’s conviction that the land and its creatures deserve both protection and reverence. Today a covenant is in place identifying it as an important environmental asset.

Throughout the 1960’s and 1970’s Jean lived at Lakeside alone, long after Archie’s death in 1958. She then moved to Marnoo and Donald. She passed away on 19 May 2012, aged 98 years, and is buried alongside Archie at Swanwater West Cemetery.

Her story, stitched together through local memory and family recollections, reminds us that courage – defending a lake, protecting birds, challenging convention – can leave an extraordinary mark on the landscape and community.





JOHN DOUGLAS

John Douglas was a member of the Stuart Mill Landcare Group and dedicated his life to passing on his knowledge of the flora and fauna of the area to others.

John, quietly spoken, was very instrumental in establishing Landcare alongside Terry Simpson. He was a well-respected farmer and conservationist with an outlook ahead of his time. He was passionate about sustainable land utilisation, especially with regard to ensuring that water resources were maintained in the landscape for both agricultural and biodiversity benefit.

John owned several parcels of land, most containing remnant bush and many dams in the region were created by John, with consideration always given to usage by the region's fauna.

John improved land and protected it by developing land covenants. The John Douglas Reserve is a 185ha woodland reserve located in Central Victoria which provides habitat for many endangered animal and plant species. His favourite block (in the Dalyenong area) was granted to Bush Heritage on his passing.

John chaired the Avoca Community Dryland Salinity Working Group.
John Douglas Nature Reserve | Bush Heritage Australia

The John Douglas Landcare Award for Land Management (presented to a BNGLN individual or member group that best exhibits the Landcare principles of land management through projects conducted in their area)





Award Winner

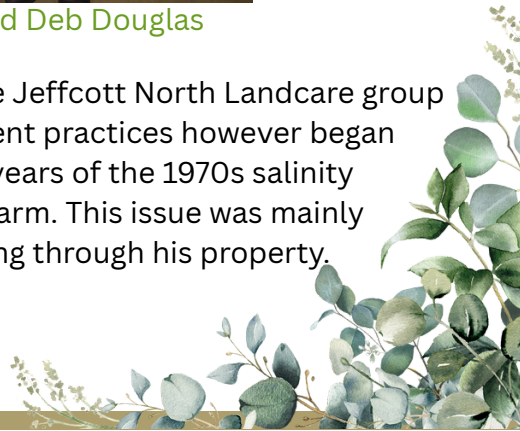
PAUL SHERIDAN

Presented by Deb Douglas



Paul Sheridan and Deb Douglas

Paul has been an active member of the Jeffcott North Landcare group since its inception. His land management practices however began long before Landcare. During the wet years of the 1970s salinity began to become an issue across the farm. This issue was mainly due to the Donald main channel running through his property.





Paul and his father Tom began planting trees along the channel as well as tall wheat grass in adjacent paddocks to try to use the water seeping from the channel and provide a perennial pasture source.

Continuing on from this original work Paul began looking into the use of saltbush to further utilise salt affected areas and provide an on-going feed reserve. The saltbush proved to be a reliable maintenance feed source particularly through the dryer years. To date around 500,000 saltbush plants have been established over an area of approximately 270 hectares, divided into 30 paddocks which can be rotationally grazed. This has enabled native grasses to thrive amongst saltbush, further enhancing the land's feed value. The saltbush has also provided habitat for many insects, birds and other wildlife.

More recently Paul purchased a relatively untouched area of land containing mainly native grassland pasture species. Realising its value Paul employed a botanist for guidance and has begun undertaking cool autumn burns to further enhance the native plant population. The results have been exceptional, and the restoration of the land is seen by many in the community as a significant achievement. These native grassland ecosystems provide essential habitat for many grassland species. One of the most critically endangered birds relying on these ecosystems is the plains wanderer. As part of the Birchip Landcare project, funded through the Mallee CMA, an acoustic recorder was placed on Paul's property in 2024. From 267 days monitoring, 250 calls were recorded which placed the site in the top 30% of all sites across the state.





TERRY SIMPSON

Terry was widely acknowledged as the father of Landcare, working with fellow farmers to transform Stricta Hill at Winjallok in Central Victoria. Once a treeless, eroded landscape locked in permanent drought due to rapid runoff and poor soil infiltration, the site was restored through perennial pastures, erosion control and extensive tree planting. Under the group's care, it became a productive and resilient farm landscape.

Terry played a pivotal role in publicising the emerging Landcare movement, particularly when Joan Kirner and Heather Mitchell formally launched Landcare at Stricta Hill in 1986. He later served on the North Central Catchment Management Authority board, continuing to champion Landcare's practical, farmer-led origins.

Together with his son Greg, Terry ran a merino sheep property at Winjallok in the Avon–Richardson catchment. Determined to combat erosion and improve the long-term sustainability of the farm, he became a respected spokesperson for practical, on-ground Landcare.

Terry also served on the Victorian Land Protection Council, advising the late Honourable Joan Kirner—then Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands—on forging a partnership between landholders, the Victorian Farmers Federation (led by the late Heather Mitchell) and the Victorian Government to protect natural resources.

Landcare began as a program to support farmers in tackling land degradation. Its success has seen it grow into a national and international movement involving people from all walks of life. Throughout this evolution, Terry remained a strong advocate for ensuring Landcare continued to deliver real value for farmers, who manage around 70 per cent of Australia's landscapes.

The Terry Simpson Landcare Group Award (presented to a group that has most consistently demonstrated a high level of commitment, proactive on the ground works, and care to our landscape and community





Award Winner

Avon Plains Banyena Landcare Group

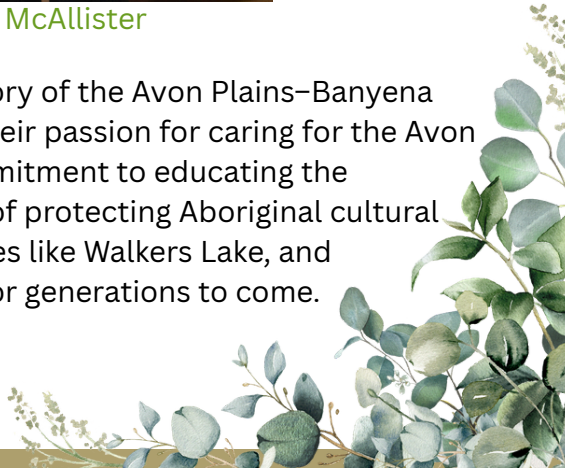
Presented by Jane Bowker

Accepted by Dougal McAllister



Dougal McAllister

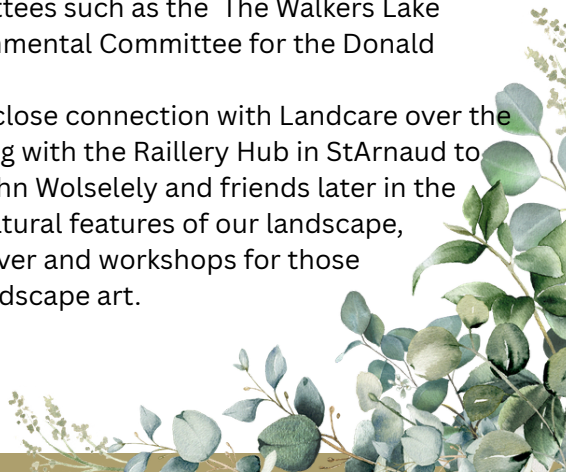
Today's presentation shares the story of the Avon Plains–Banyena Landcare Groups – their history, their passion for caring for the Avon Plains environment, and their commitment to educating the community about the importance of protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage, safeguarding special places like Walkers Lake, and ensuring these landscapes thrive for generations to come.





What Avon Plains Banyena Landcare Group has achieved:

- Attended the opening of the Landcare movement in 1986 at Winjallock, launched by the Hon. Joan Kirner and Heather Mitchell – among the first in the district to sign up.
- Received a certificate recognising Avon Plains as one of the earliest members of the Landcare movement.
- In 1986, kicked off an ambitious tree-planting program to link the lakes and York Plains, helping wildlife move safely through the landscape.
- From 1986 to today, supported extensive fencing and revegetation along the Richardson River.
- In 2013, after the Millennium Drought, Avon Plains amalgamated with the Banyena Landcare Group.
- After Walkers Lake was gazetted as a recreational lake in 2013, the group worked to highlight the loss of wildlife protection and advocate for better balance.
- Between 2013 and 2018, promoted the rich cultural heritage of the lake systems – Hollands Lake, Walkers Lake, Hancocks Swamp, Batyo Swamp – commissioning Dja Dja Wurrung reports and hosting educational walks.
- From 2018 to now, continued strong advocacy to prevent further environmental damage at Walkers Lake and ensure it remains healthy for future generations.
- Delivered new educational signage at Walkers Lake in 2026.
- Ongoing work to protect threatened flora and fauna, including the Striped Legless Lizard project – supporting an endangered, harmless little lizard now isolated at the Creswick Well Reserve.
- The group is not afraid to advocate for sensitive environmental issues and has had representatives on committees such as the The Walkers Lake Advisory group and now the Environmental Committee for the Donald Mineral Sands Project.
- To help celebrate the APBL Groups close connection with Landcare over the last 40 years, the group is partnering with the Raillery Hub in StArnaud to hold an exhibition of artworks by John Wolseley and friends later in the year. It will showcase some of the natural features of our landscape, particularly along the Richardson River and workshops for those
- interested in the creative side of landscape art.





CARRIE JESSE AWARD

One of Landcare's most active and passionate members was Carrie Jesse. A young schoolteacher from Melbourne, Carrie taught at the St Arnaud High School and was loved by everyone. Carrie married a local farmer and was there on 'Stricta Hill' at Winjallok with a baby in pusher, on the day Landcare came into being.

Carrie was a founding member of both the Avon Plains and the Banyena Landcare Groups. She was secretary-treasurer of the Avon Plains Landcare Group from its inception in 1986, and inaugural secretary of the amalgamated Avon Plains Banyena Landcare Group from 2013 until 2015.

Carrie was the project manager for a major funding initiative that established boardwalks along the edge of Lake Batyo Catyo to enable visitors to interact with nature, planted thousands of trees and created a corridor to nearby Walkers Lake. The long drought of the early 2000s, and the piping of the Wimmera Mallee System, saw the demise of Lake Batyo Catyo when it reverted back to an empty swamp.

The group campaigned to have Walkers Lake established as a permanent water body and Carrie Jesse helped to develop a management plan for the lake. Carrie Jesse was a staunch advocate for Walkers Lake.

Since Carrie's passing in 2016, the Avon Plains Banyena Landcare Group has continued to work towards protecting the beauty, cultural and environmental assets of this precious drop of water in the Wimmera and have done so in memory of their friend Carrie. Her extraordinary contribution to the land and wetlands that she loved are an inspiration to us all.

The Carrie Jesse Landcare Award for Community and Advocacy presented to a BNGLN individual or member group that best exhibits Landcare advocacy and education through the results of projects conducted in their area





Award Winner

Carol Campbell

Presented by Fiona Burchell



Fiona Burchell and Carol Campbell

Carol has dedicated more than 40 years to protecting the environmental and cultural values of our region, especially the Avon Plains Lake System. Her advocacy has been tireless, strategic, and deeply community-minded.





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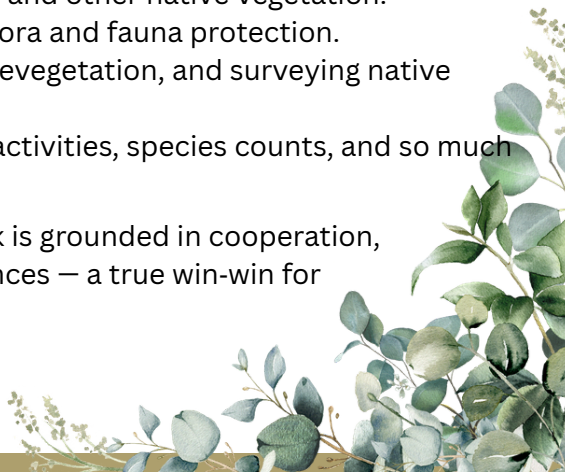
Thanks to Carol's persistence, there's been major wins recently at Walkers Lake – protective fencing, new educational signage, and a regulated swimming and boating area. These improvements simply wouldn't have happened without her determination and her constant push for Council to do better.

Across four decades, Carol has provided sustained and significant service to Landcare, land management, and environmental stewardship. She has served as President and Secretary of the Avon Plains and Avon Plains–Banyena Landcare Groups, President of the BNGLN Network, and the creator of the much-loved Winter Warmer Walks.

Carol has been instrumental in:

- Fencing the Banyena/Richardson River from sheep – a project she supported continuously for over 40 years until completion.
- Caring for the entire Avon Plains Lake system, with a special focus on Walkers Lake.
- Introducing lucerne planting to help monitor and lower the water table.
- Supporting Dja Dja Wurrung surveys across the lake system and ensuring findings were shared respectfully with the community.
- Securing ongoing grants for rabbit control and eradication on both private and public land.
- Creating public walking routes along rivers and after local events.
- Establishing the Winter Warmer Walks, encouraging people to explore new and interesting places each winter.
- Supporting fencing of Buloke trees and other native vegetation.
- Obtaining grants for endangered flora and fauna protection.
- Participating in lake and roadside revegetation, and surveying native grasses in verges and paddocks.
- Leading birdwatch and frogwatch activities, species counts, and so much more.

Carol brings people together. Her work is grounded in cooperation, community pride, and shared experiences – a true win-win for both people and the landscape.





BULOKE AND NORTHERN GRAMPPIANS LANDCARE NETWORK LEGEND AWARD

The Buloke and Northern Grampians Landcare Network supports Landcare and conservation groups to care for the land, support healthy farms, and strengthen community connections. It helps groups with planning, funding, events, and practical projects that protect nature and keep our landscapes thriving.

The Network also links communities with councils, CMAs, Traditional Custodians and other partners so bigger, long-term projects can happen across the region.

Most importantly, none of this works without the local groups and volunteers. Their time, passion and local knowledge are what keep Landcare alive, and without them the Network simply wouldn't exist.

BNGLN Legend (presented to a person who has had the most significant impact on the BNGLN region and caused the environment or organisation to change significantly for the better.





Award Winner

Trevor Campbell

Presented by Geoff Park



Trevor Campbell and Geoff Park

Trevor Campbell was involved from the very beginning of the Landcare movement within the Avon–Richardson Catchment Community Implementation Group. Through his vision, inspiration, and strong leadership, he worked tirelessly to establish Landcare across the region and to demonstrate the long-term benefits it would bring to both the landscape and local communities.





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Trevor played a key role in the commencement of the Avon–Richardson Catchment Improvement Scheme, where the catchment was divided into cells with a strong focus on addressing dryland farming challenges, salinity, and drought, and the significant damage these issues were causing to the landscape.

Through regular meetings across catchment boundaries and within the shire, Trevor was instrumental in the establishment and part of both Donald and District and Jeffcott North Landcare groups. Under his leadership, numerous projects were initiated and successfully delivered.

The extent that Trevor went to during the Millennium Drought, he undertook a plane flight over the Mallee catchment and documented the devastating impacts through video footage. This evidence was used to support meetings with government and cabinet representatives to advocate for funding to address salinity and drought. As a result of this advocacy, Trevor worked tirelessly to activate Landcare groups and deliver on-ground outcomes, including:

- Roadside vegetation planting and direct seeding programs
- Establishment of the Sustainable Soils Group
- Development of the Lake Tyrrell viewing platform
- Trialling seaweed ponds to produce salt and algae at Sheridan properties, under the guidance of Phil Dyson
- Securing funding for the Buloke Biolink Project to establish and strengthen vital ecological corridors across multiple catchments. The project connects landscapes from the West to Hindmarsh, south to the Avon Plains, incorporating Lake Buloke; extends east to the Avoca River catchment via Wooroonook and Mount Jeffcott; and reaches north to Sea Lake, creating a continuous biolink across the region.





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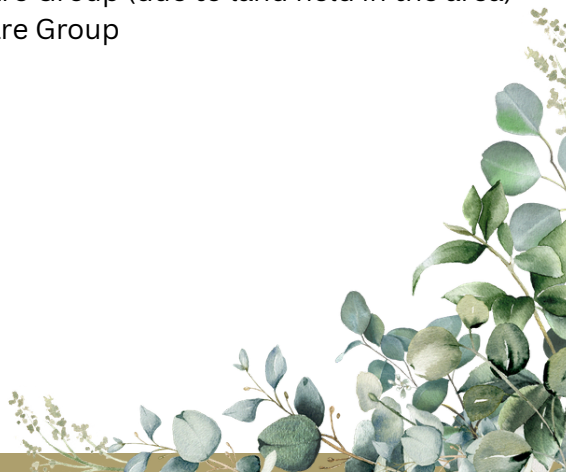
Throughout his involvement, Trevor ensured that Landcare groups remained strongly connected to the community, fostering collaboration, participation, and long-term commitment to sustainable land management across the region.

Trevor's leadership and commitment have left a lasting legacy across the Avon–Richardson catchment and beyond. The Landcare groups he helped establish continue to thrive, delivering environmental, social, and economic benefits to their communities.

His early vision, strong advocacy, and dedication to practical on-ground outcomes have shaped the way landcare operates in the region today, ensuring healthier landscapes, more resilient farming systems, and stronger community connections for future generations.

The positions Trevor has held are:

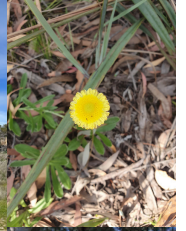
- Pre 1985 Lake Buloke Landholders Association
- Avon - Richardson Catchment Community Implementation Group: Deputy Chair
- Avon - Richardson Catchment Community Implementation Group: Chair (taking over from Terry Simpson)
- Avon Richardson Catchment Improvement Scheme
- Founding chair of the Donald & District Landcare Group
- Member of Jeffcott North Landcare Group (due to land held in the area)
- Current: Donald & District Landcare Group













Sincere thanks



Thank you to everyone who was able to join us on this day to celebrate the Network's wonderful volunteers, award winners and Landcare's 40th anniversary. Thanks to everyone who put in a nomination to recognise a special landcarer. We also sincerely thank the following for their support in organising and running the 2026 Hall of Fame and 40 Year Anniversary of Landcare event:

- Trevor Campbell - Guest speaker
- Geoff Park, Anne Hughes, Fiona Burchell and Deb Douglas for presenting awards
- Tracey Atkins - Making the cake
- Belinda Pritchard (NCCMA) - For ongoing Facilitator and project funding
- Taltarni Vineyard - Venue, lunch and flowers
- BNGLN Committee - Organising the day
- Kathy Campbell - Taking photos
- North Central Farm Trees - Supplying plants

From all the committee members of the
Buloke and Northern Grampians Landcare Network Committee

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge that our Network performs its activities on Dja Dja Wurrung and Barengi Gadjin Country. We acknowledge and extend our appreciation for the Dja Dja Wurrung and Barengi Gadjin peoples, the Traditional Custodians of the country on which we work and volunteer.

We pay our respects to leaders and Elders past and present for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and the hopes of all First Nations Peoples. We express our gratitude in the sharing of this Country, our sorrow for the personal, spiritual and cultural costs of that sharing and our hope that we may walk forward together in harmony and in the spirit of healing.

